



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SDNG CELEBRATES 151 YEARS OF SERVICE

The South Dakota National Guard marked 151 years of service to the state and nation on Sunday, as they celebrated the Jan. 27, 1862, birth date of the organization's formation.

With a proud 151-year heritage of serving as the state's militia, the SDNG finds its origins dating back to 1862 as part of the Dakota Territory.

Since that time, SDNG units have served in nearly every major war or conflict since the Civil War, as well as provided assistance to the state in times of domestic emergencies such as floods, fires, tornadoes, and winter storms.

South Dakota National Guard



The Beginning



The journey of the Dakota militiaman begins during the Civil War with Companies A and B of the Dakota Cavalry.

On March 2, 1861, President James Buchanan signed the act establishing the Dakota Territory. By that time, Vermillion, Bon Homme and Elk Point were growing communities. The territory tended to be people who were genuine settlers, mostly immigrants from Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Earlier in the 1850s, the U.S. Army had established garrisons at Fort Pierre and Fort Randall on the Missouri River. Their mission was to protect the 5,000 settlers from the threat of Native American attacks.

However, when the Civil War started, the Army withdrew three companies from Fort Randall leaving it in an exposed position. This led to the Dec. 7, 1861, proclamation, by the Territorial Governor William Jayne, to raise two companies of volunteer militia. (continued on next page)

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SDNG CELEBRATES 151 YEARS (CONTINUED)

Recruiting centers were then established in Yankton, Vermillion and Bon Homme. The citizens were very patriotic with a lot of local pride, and in just over one month enough men had enlisted to assemble the first company of citizen-Soldiers. On Jan. 27, 1862, Capt. Nelson Miner, company commander, formed the unit in Yankton, Company A, Dakota Cavalry.

This was the first unit of the Dakota Territory Militia and the birth of the South Dakota National Guard.

South Dakota National Guard



The History



Since that fateful date in 1862, the SDNG has since seen combat during the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm. The National Guard was also called up during the Mexican Border Conflict, Korean

War, Berlin Crisis and peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, each of South Dakota's 24 National Guard communities has experienced a unit mobilization in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. More than 6,500 soldiers and airmen have deployed in support of these operations and continue to deploy time and time again.

The National Guard is the only military component that holds a dual-mission consisting of both federal and state roles. The federal mission is to maintain trained and equipped units available for prompt mobilization for war or a national emergency. At the state level, the governor reserves the ability, under the Constitution, to call up members of the National Guard in times of domestic emergencies.

Throughout the years, natural disasters have called forth the Guard's spirit of teamwork and sacrifice to battle floods, fires, blizzards and tornado destruction. From the Rapid City Flood of 1972 to the 1998 Spencer Tornado to Hurricane Katrina and Rita in 2005, and most recently the 2011 Missouri River Flood, the SDNG has helped its fellow South Dakotans and Americans in times of need.

South Dakota National Guard



Today



Today's SDNG remains strong with nearly 4,300 soldiers and airmen available to execute its dual-mission on the state and federal level. The Guard is now in 24 communities throughout South Dakota and is comprised of 42 separate Army Guard units and de-

tachments and 17 Air Guard units. These units perform a variety of missions; everything from command and control, administration, engineering, field artillery, transportation, logistics, communications, maintenance, aviation, public affairs, military police, firefighting, and medical.

The Guard is no longer a strategic reserve to the active component, but an operational force directly integrated into active-duty deployments and missions. The force structure of the SDNG is designed to meet the needs of the future force; giving the Guard an enhanced capability to respond in times of emergencies and natural disasters and to support Overseas Contingency Operations.

SDNG CELEBRATES 151 YEARS (CONTINUED)

The SDNG had a significant impact on the state's economy with more than \$180.6 million dollars in expenditures and wages in 2012. The SDNG is also one of the largest employers in the state with more than 960 full-time employees, along with nearly 3,300 traditional Guard members who train on a part-time basis while pursuing a career or civilian education.

These full-time employees, along with state employees and civilian contractors, work to assist the traditional Guardsman by providing administrative, training and logistical support. This support collectively goes into helping units meet mobilization and readiness requirements.

The South Dakota Army National Guard remains strong with nearly 3,300 soldiers available for state and federal missions. The nerve center for the SDARNG resides at the state headquarters at Camp Rapid in Rapid City; an 84-acre training site first developed in 1924.

The South Dakota Air National Guard is located on the southeast corner of Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls and was federally recognized in 1946. It has nearly 1,000 airmen assigned to its headquarters and the 114th Fighter Wing. The mission of the SDANG is to provide combat capability to the war fight, security for the homeland and to provide combat-ready units in three roles: federal, state and community.

The SDNG is divided into different task forces to provide assistance to our local communities throughout the state in the event of an emergency. Separated by geographical regions, units are assigned to each task force providing personnel and equipment for response to severe weather, fires, natural disasters, search-and-rescue operations, civil disturbances or homeland defense.

The proud heirs of the militia tradition can be found in the men and women of today's SDNG. They stand ready to leave the comforts of home and family to help their friends and neighbors, defend the nation's interests and bring peace and hope to people throughout the world.

NEW APP FOR VETERANS

POS-REP, short for "position report," is a new social networking mobile app that allows veterans to locate other veterans, communicate and find resources in their area. The app, currently in the final stages of Apple approval, was developed by Anthony Allman, an Army Veteran, with a five man team.

The inspiration for the mobile app came from the devastating loss of former Marine Clay Hunt, whose depression and PTSD eventually led to his suicide in March of 2011. On *Business Insider*, Allman explained there were three other veterans within ten miles of Hunt. After that realization, the idea of an app that connects veterans with others in their area was born.

The free download has multiple features, including radar, which shows a map of other nearby veterans and allows users to broadcast their own locations if they choose. There is also Sitrep, which allows veterans to post status updates and communicate with one another.

The mobile app's long-term goal is to ease the transition from the military by providing additional support and resources through local connections with others who are experiencing, or have experienced the transition themselves.



CREATE A “MY SOCIAL SECURITY” ACCOUNT ON LINE

“At each stage of your life, my Social Security is for you. Your personal online my Social Security account is a valuable source of information beginning in your working years and continuing throughout the time you receive Social Security benefits,” reports Kathy Peterson, SSA Public Affairs Specialist.

People not yet receiving Social Security benefits, can view, print and save their Social Security Statement at www.socialsecurity.gov. People who receive Social Security benefits can check their benefit and payment information; get a benefit verification letter, change address and phone number; and start or change direct deposit. Those receiving Supplemental Security Income will be able to get a benefit verification letter. Before you can access this information, you will need to set up a My Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Here’s how to set up an account::



[my Social Security](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) – Sign In Or Create An Account



At each stage of your life, my Social Security is for you. Your personal online my Social Security account is a valuable source of information beginning in your working years and continuing throughout the time you receive Social Security benefits.

- ♦ **Step 1:** Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and click the My Social Security section located near the top of the page in the middle. Look for the grey box with the pad-lock icon.
- ♦ **Step 2:** Click on “Create An Account”. To create a My Social Security account, you must be at least 18 years old and have: a valid email address; a Social Security number; and a U. S. mailing address.
- ♦ **Step 3:** Provide some personal information to verify your identity.
- ♦ **Step 4:** Choose a username and password to create your account.

SD LEADERSHIP TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON

Last week Governor Dennis Daugaard, SD Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Larry Zimmerman, SD Senator Bruce Rempelberg and SD Representative Mike Verchio traveled to Hot Springs to meet with the “Save the VA” team and tour the VA facilities in Hot Springs. This trip was in preparation for the January 28th meeting with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki and his staff in Washington, DC. “The Hot Springs facility is a great historical sight,” said Secretary Zimmerman. “Service members have been cared for since 1907 in this health care system. It is a grand tribute to our veterans in South Dakota.”

Monday, Governor Daugaard, Senators Johnson (SD), Thune (SD), Johanns (NE), Barvasso (WY), and Enzi (WY) and Representative Noem (SD); as well as “Save the VA” Committee members Pat Russell, Bob Nelson, Rich Gross, Don Ackerman, and Amanda Campbell met with VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and his staff in DC to discuss the future of the VA facilities in Hot Springs as well as service to South Dakota veterans.

South Dakota’s congressional delegation believed the meeting provided the “Save the VA” Committee a great opportunity to present their case directly to Secretary Shinseki. Governor Daugaard was appreciative of the time Secretary Shinseki provided the group and hopes the VA will do what is best for South Dakota’s veterans.

DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR 235TH MP COMPANY

A deployment ceremony will be held for 124 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 235th Military Police Company at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Stevens High School auditorium in Rapid City (1200 44th Street).

The public is encouraged to attend.

The 235th, headquartered in Rapid City with a detachment in Sioux Falls, will deploy to Afghanistan for a yearlong tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The mission of the 235th is to provide security for U.S. military personnel, installation and facilities and to guard prisoners of war and civilian internees.



Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, will be the featured speakers at the ceremony.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the third mobilization for the 235th - deploying in support of Operation Noble Eagle at Fort Carson, Colo., in 2003, as well as in support of OEF in Afghanistan in 2006.

SIoux FALLS, FLANDREAU GUARD UNIT TO DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company has received an alert order for possible mobilization to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 1742nd and its 169 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in the December 2013/January 2014 timeframe. The unit's headquarters is located in Sioux Falls and its Detachment 1 in Flandreau.

The mission of the 1742nd is to provide transportation of both dry and refrigerated containerized cargo, general non-containerized cargo and bulk water and fuel products.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the second mobilization for the 1742nd, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004.

VABHHCS TO HOST VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

The VA Black Hills Health Care System will host a Veterans Resource Fair at the Hot Springs VA Medical Center on February 6 to introduce veterans and their families to valuable resources in the community. Veterans and their families are invited to the Hot Springs VA Medical Center to meet with businesses and organizations that provide services for veterans. The Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the domiciliary auditorium.

Some organizations that will be present are National American University, Chadron State College, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Labor and Experience Works. For more information please contact Rodger Woepfel at 605-745-200, ext. 2114.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 2—Deployment Ceremony for 235th Military Police—Rapid City Stevens High School—10:00 am
Feb. 4—VFW Legislative Reception—Pierre (401 S. Central Avenue)
Feb. 5—American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8—Pierre (520 S. Pierre Street)
Feb. 7—SDNG Legislative Dining Out
Feb. 8-10—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Cedar Shores in Oacoma
Feb. 10—Four Chaplains Memorial Service—St Francis Assissi Church—Sturgis—1:30 pm
Feb. 9—SFVAHCS Valentines for Veterans Concert—Washington Pavilion—Sioux Falls, SD—3:00 pm
Feb. 16—SFVAHCS Variety Show—2:00 pm
Mar. 14—VABHHCS Veterans Creative Arts Show—Fort Meade
Apr. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
May 3-5—DAV State Convention—The Lodge—Deadwood
May 11—Yellow Ribbon for the 935th—Rapid City
May 19—Yellow Ribbon for the 927th—Sioux Falls
Jul. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us
Web site: <http://mva.sd.gov>

